

2021  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

## Retained Deciduous Teeth

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
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Cats and dogs have two sets of teeth during their life, baby or deciduous teeth erupt first and these then fall out and are replaced by their adult teeth. Retained deciduous teeth occur when a baby tooth doesn't fall out when the adult tooth is coming up.

### Why are retained deciduous teeth a problem?

Retained deciduous teeth prevent the adult tooth from erupting into the correct position. The adult tooth often then comes out next to where it should have and this can cause lots of problems for your pet. The canines are one of the more common retained deciduous teeth we see, these often cause the adult tooth to erupt further into the mouth. The adult tooth then, instead of sitting in its normal position, bites into the roof of your pet's mouth causing ulcers, infection and pain.

### When do we need to be worried about it?

Depending on the tooth the time for the adult to erupt varies, so best to ask one of our vets. One of our vets will check your puppy or kittens mouth at their vaccinations and this is usually when we notice this problem. If you have noticed a tooth you think isn't doing what it should give the clinic a call.

### What can we do about it?

Any retained teeth need to be extracted to allow the best chance for the adult tooth to move into its normal position. Depending on the severity of the malposition further dental work can be done to move the adult tooth into its right place to avoid painful malocclusions where teeth are traumatizing the mouth.

The above photo is of an adult dog who never had a retained deciduous tooth extracted and as such their adult tooth was colliding with their lip and this created a very large painful ulcer on the inside of their lip.



### We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Cattle Pregnancy Testing
- Bull Fertility Testing
- Lameness in Cattle
- Equine Consults
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition

### Simpson Office:

Please call 5232 2111  
Orders will  
be delivered to the  
Simpson Clinic daily

### Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open  
Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm  
Saturday 9am to 12 noon

We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.  
Our emergency number  
is:

**5232 2111**

## Retained Foetal Membranes

Retained foetal membranes (RFMs) or retained placentas occur in approximately 10% of dairy cows and less than 5% of beef cows.

After birth the membranes are usually expelled within 2 days but can take up to 10 days to fall out, and still be considered normal, even if they stink. This is due to the time it takes for the placenta to detach from the cow and be pushed out.

The incidence of RFMs increases with abortions, difficult calvings, increasing age of the dam, inducing birth, stillbirths, milk fever and extremely hot weather. Much hotter days than what we consider hot days here in the south west!

RFMs in themselves aren't a disease but they are associated with higher incidence of secondary diseases like metritis, RDAs, LDAs and mastitis. These all occur when an infection spreads from the membranes into the cow and she becomes systemically unwell.

Treatment involves removing the membranes to remove the infection. Intrauterine antibiotics have been found to have low effectiveness in treating RFMs. Pulling too hard on a membrane that isn't ready to fall out can cause haemorrhage. (This is why it's advisable to get a vet to do it).

Oxytocin, oestrogen and PG used to be the mainstay of treating RFMs but modern medicine is leaning away from using these drugs and letting the placenta fall out naturally. Evidence has also shown that using PG doesn't hurt the cow or make matters worse, so it is up to individuals whether or not they use it.

The take home message with RFMs is a cow can retain her placenta for up to 10 days and this can be normal unless she is otherwise sick. Removal of the RFM is the only treatment that works and treatment only needs to be done after 10 days or if the cow is systemically sick.

If your cows meet these conditions please give us a call and we will be more than happy to help.



**GOODBYE 2020**

As we boot 2020 out of here we all wish our valued Clients a very Happy New Year and may 2021 be a much kinder year to us all.

